What is claimed is:

1. In a method of immersing a plurality of cylindrical bodies in a bath, which stores a coating liquid, at the same time and then lifting said plurality of cylindrical bodies to thereby form a film on each cylindrical body, said bath comprises a plurality of chambers each being positioned beneath one of said plurality of cylindrical bodies and storing said coating liquid,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are positioned in a space that is closed at a top, surrounded by a flexible hood at sides, and open at a bottom for discharging vapor of a solvent, which is contained in the coating liquid, produced during immersion or drying to touch,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are immersed in the coating liquid in the bath while being confined in said flexible hood,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies and said flexible hood are lifted together when said plurality of cylindrical bodies are lifted at a constant speed or a varying speed, and

the bottom of said flexible hood is positioned, when the plurality of cylindrical bodies are brought to a stop after a lift, at a level coincident with or lower than a level of bottoms of said plurality of cylindrical bodies.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein when said cylindrical bodies are brought to a stop, a difference in level between the bottom of said flexible hood and the bottoms of said cylindrical bodies is between 1 mm and 100 mm.

3. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein before immersion of the cylindrical bodies in the coating liquid, air or an inert gas under pressure is sent into said flexible hood to thereby drive the vapor of the solvent out of aid flexible hood.

4. The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein when said cylindrical bodies are brought to a stop, a difference in level between the bottom of said flexible hood and the bottoms of said cylindrical bodies is between 1 mm and 100 mm.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said flexible hood is folded or contracted, a difference between the bottom of said hood, which is open, and a top of said bath is between 1 mm and 50 mm.

6. The method in accordance with claim 5, wherein before immersion of the cylindrical bodies in the coating liquid, air or an inert gas under pressure is sent into said flexible hood to thereby drive the vapor of the solvent out of aid flexible hood.

7. The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein

when said cylindrical bodies are brought to a stop, a difference in level between the bottom of said flexible hood and the bottoms of said cylindrical bodies is between 1 mm and 100 mm.

8. A coating apparatus comprising:

a supporting device comprising a holder support movable in an up-and-down direction, a plurality of holder members affixed to said holder support for supporting a plurality of cylindrical bodies, and a flexible hood affixed to said holder support in such a manner as to surround said plurality of cylindrical bodies, said holder support being open at a bottom thereof for discharging vapor of a solvent, which is contained in a coating liquid, produced during immersion or drying to touch; and

a bath positioned below said supporting device and storing the coating liquid;

wherein said flexible hood folds or contracts at a top of said bath, rises together with the plurality of cylindrical bodies when said plurality of cylindrical bodies are lifted out of said bath at a constant speed or a varying speed, and has a bottom positioned at a level coincident with or below a level of bottoms of said plurality of cylindrical bodies when said flexible hood is brought to a stop after a lift; and

said bath comprises a plurality of chambers each

being positioned beneath one of the plurality of cylindrical bodies and each storing the coating liquid.

9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising compressed air feeding means for sending compressed air or a compressed inert gas into said flexible hood.

10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein a difference in level between the bottom of said flexible hood and the top of said bath is between 1 mm and 50 mm when said flexible hood folds or contracts.

11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising compressed air feeding means for sending compressed air or a compressed inner gas into said flexible hood.

12. In a photoconductive element produced by a coating method that uses a conductive base as a cylindrical body and uses a photoconductive layer forming liquid as a coating liquid, said coating method immerses a plurality of cylindrical bodies in a bath, which stores said coating liquid, at the same time and then lifts said plurality of cylindrical bodies to thereby form a film on each cylindrical body,

a bath comprises a plurality of chambers each being positioned beneath one of the plurality of cylindrical bodies and storing the coating liquid,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are positioned in a space that is closed at a top, surrounded by a flexible hood at sides, and open at a bottom for discharging vapor of a solvent, which is contained in the coating liquid, produced during immersion or drying to touch,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are immersed in the coating liquid in the bath while being confined in said flexible hood,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies and said flexible hood are lifted together when said plurality of cylindrical bodies are lifted at a constant speed or a varying speed, and

the bottom of said flexible hood is positioned, when the plurality of cylindrical bodies are brought to a stop after a lift, at a level coincident with or lower than a level of bottoms of said plurality of cylindrical bodies.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a coating apparatus for producing the photoconductive element comprises a supporting device comprising a holder support movable in an up-and-down direction, a plurality of holder members affixed to said holder support for supporting the plurality of cylindrical bodies, said flexible hood affixed to said holder support in such a manner as to surround said plurality of cylindrical bodies, said holder support being open at a bottom thereof for

discharging vapor of a solvent, which is contained in the coating liquid, produced during immersion or drying to touch, and said bath positioned below said supporting device and storing the coating liquid;

wherein said flexible hood folds or contracts at a top of said bath, rises together with the plurality of cylindrical bodies when said plurality of cylindrical bodies are lifted out of said bath at a constant speed or a varying speed, and has a bottom positioned at a level coincident with or below a level of bottoms of said plurality of cylindrical bodies when said flexible hood is brought to a stop after a lift, and

said bath comprises a plurality of chambers each being positioned beneath one of the plurality of bodies and each storing the coating liquid.

14. In an image forming method using at least a photoconductive element, charging means for uniformly charging said photoconductive element, exposing means for exposing a charged surface of said photoconductive element imagewise to thereby form a latent image, developing means for developing said latent image to thereby produce a corresponding toner image, and image transferring means for transferring said toner image to a recording medium, a method of producing said photoconductive element immerses a plurality of cylindrical bodies in a bath, which

stores a coating liquid, at the same time and then lifts said plurality of cylindrical bodies to thereby form a film on each cylindrical body,

said bath comprises a plurality of chambers each being positioned beneath one of said plurality of cylindrical bodies and storing the coating liquid,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are positioned in a space that is closed at a top, surrounded by a flexible hood at sides, and open at a bottom for discharging vapor of a solvent, which is contained in the coating liquid, produced during immersion or drying to touch,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are immersed in the coating liquid in the bath while being confined in said flexible hood,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies and said flexible hood are lifted together when said plurality of cylindrical bodies are lifted at a constant speed or a varying speed, and

the bottom of said flexible hood is positioned, when the plurality of cylindrical bodies are brought to a stop after a lift, at a level coincident with or lower than a level of bottoms of said plurality of cylindrical bodies.

15. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a photoconductive element;

charging means for uniformly charging said

photoconductive element;

exposing means for exposing a charged surface of said photoconductive element imagewise to thereby form a latent image;

developing means for developing the latent image to thereby produce a corresponding toner image; and

image transferring means for transferring the toner image to a recording medium;

wherein said photoconductive element is produced by a coating method that uses a conductive base as a cylindrical body and uses a photoconductive layer forming liquid as a coating liquid,

said coating method immerses a plurality of cylindrical bodies in a bath, which stores the coating liquid, at the same time and then lifts said plurality of cylindrical bodies to thereby form a film on each cylindrical body,

said bath comprises a plurality of chambers each being positioned beneath one of the plurality of cylindrical bodies and storing the coating liquid,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are positioned in a space that is closed at a top, surrounded by a flexible hood at sides, and open at a bottom for discharging vapor of a solvent, which is contained in the coating liquid, produced during immersion or drying to touch,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies are immersed in the coating liquid in said bath while being confined in said flexible hood,

the plurality of cylindrical bodies and said flexible hood are lifted together when said plurality of cylindrical bodies are lifted at a constant speed or a varying speed, and

the bottom of said flexible hood is positioned, when the plurality of cylindrical bodies are brought to a stop after a lift, at a level coincident with or lower than a level of bottoms of said plurality of cylindrical bodies.